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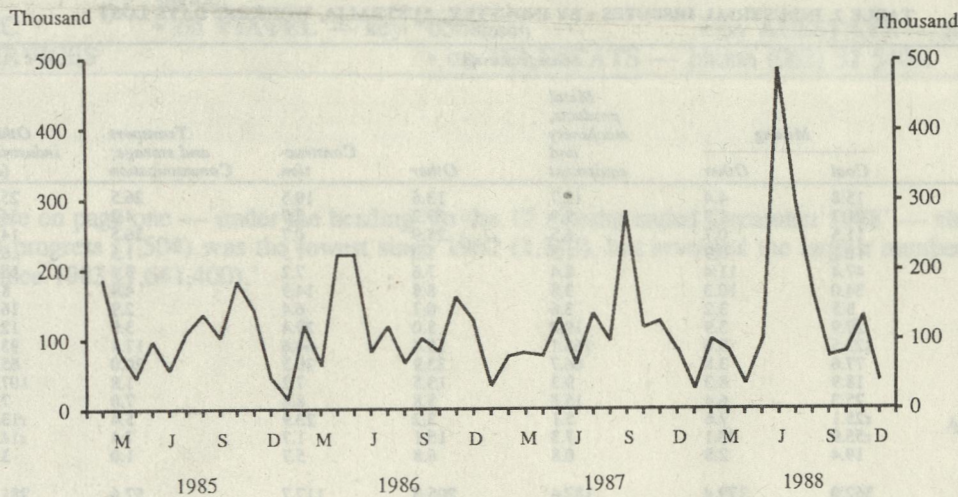
CATALOGUE NO. 6321.0
EMBARGOED UNTIL 11.30 A.M. 3 MAY 1989

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES, AUSTRALIA, DECEMBER 1988

PHONE INQUIRIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>about these statistics and the availability of related unpublished statistics</i>—contact Fiona Blackshaw on Canberra (062) 52 6561 or any ABS State office.• <i>about other statistics and ABS services</i>—contact Information Services on Canberra (062) 52 6007, 52 6627, 52 5402 or any ABS State office.
MAIL INQUIRIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>write to</i> Information Services, ABS, PO Box 10, Belconnen, A.C.T. 2616 or any ABS State office.
ELECTRONIC SERVICES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• on VIATEL — key *656#.• on AUSSTATS — phone (062) 52 6017.• on TELESTATS — phone (062) 52 5404.

MAIN FEATURES

WORKING DAYS LOST, AUSTRALIA



In December 1988—

- 40,000 working days were lost in 91 disputes, involving 24,800 employees, a marked decrease from November levels.
- Coal Mining was the predominant industry, accounting for 19,400 (48.5%) of working days lost.
- Only the Construction industry recorded an increase in the number of working days lost (to 5,700) over the previous month (1,700).

In the 12 months ended December 1988—

- The number of disputes in progress (1,504) was the lowest since 1967 (1,340), but involved the largest number of working days lost (1,638,400) since 1979 (1,862,926).
- Working days lost per thousand employees (268) increased by 20.2% compared to 1987 (223), representing the highest level in a calendar year since 1982 (358).
- Substantial increases were recorded in the number of working days lost per thousand employees in the Coal Mining (73.2%), Other Mining (65.8%) and Metal products, machinery and equipment manufacturing (56.8%) industries, compared to the previous year.
- Queensland recorded the greatest increase in the number of working days lost per thousand employees over the previous year, rising from 87 to 337 (an increase of 287.4%).

NOTES

The statistics of industrial disputes are compiled mainly from data obtained from employers (both private and public sector) and trade unions concerning individual disputes, and from reports of government authorities.

The statistics relate to disputes which involved stoppages of work of ten working days or more at the establishments where the stoppages occurred.

Explanatory notes are published on pages 5 and 6 of this publication.

IAN CASTLES
Australian Statistician

TABLE 1. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : AUSTRALIA

Period	Number of disputes(a)		Employees involved ('000)		Working days lost ('000)
	Commenced in period	Total(b)	Newly involved(c)	Total(b)	
1987					
October	136	151	60.6	64.5	117.6
November	160	181	86.0	97.8	126.7
December	96	115	34.8	49.7	86.5
1988					
January	81	86	12.2	12.6	29.2
February	139	149	44.0	58.1	100.5
March	168	187	34.7	41.9	84.8
April	100	108	19.8	21.2	36.6
May	147	159	57.4	68.5	101.0
June	165	186	364.0	374.5	488.3
July	91	107	117.5	192.8	297.8
August	142	151	107.1	116.2	166.2
September	109	121	33.7	49.7	76.3
October	r139	r151	r36.6	r41.1	r83.3
November	r148	r165	r51.0	r58.1	r134.5
December	69	91	14.5	24.8	40.0
Twelve months ended—					
December 1986	1,747	1,754	673.9	691.7	1,390.7
1987	1,512	1,517	593.4	608.8	1,311.9
1988	1,498	1,504	892.5	893.0	1,638.4

(a) See paragraph 10 of the Explanatory Notes. (b) Refers to all disputes in progress during the period. (c) Comprises employees involved in disputes which commenced during the month and additional employees involved in disputes which continued from the previous month.

TABLE 2. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : BY INDUSTRY, AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST ('000)

Period	Manufacturing							
	Mining		Metal products, machinery and equipment	Other	Construction	Transport and storage; Communication	Other industries (a)	All industries
	Coal	Other						
1987								
October	15.8	4.4	12.7	13.6	19.5	26.5	25.1	117.6
November	21.7	1.3	9.9	29.2	5.7	4.2	54.7	126.7
December	11.5	0.7	6.5	25.9	0.7	26.5	14.6	86.5
1988								
January	10.1	0.9	1.3	1.3	7.5	1.5	6.6	29.2
February	47.4	11.4	8.4	7.6	7.2	3.4	15.1	100.5
March	34.0	10.3	3.8	8.8	14.9	4.4	8.6	84.8
April	3.5	3.2	3.6	0.7	6.4	2.9	16.3	36.6
May	27.9	3.9	19.2	5.0	29.4	3.0	12.6	101.0
June	123.5	5.6	168.1	15.6	64.6	17.4	93.4	488.3
July	77.6	3.8	66.7	33.9	30.5	20.0	65.3	297.8
August	18.9	8.3	9.3	13.5	7.2	1.8	107.2	166.2
September	25.3	6.4	15.8	5.8	8.8	7.0	7.2	76.3
October	r25.1	7.6	5.1	3.2	23.9	5.4	r13.0	r83.3
November	r55.9	33.1	7.3	15.1	1.7	7.4	r14.0	r134.5
December	19.4	2.8	0.8	6.8	5.7	1.0	3.5	40.0
Twelve months ended—								
December 1986	362.0	179.4	187.4	205.3	117.7	57.6	281.4	1,390.7
1987	291.8	55.7	199.6	195.5	194.5	92.5	282.3	1,311.9
1988	468.4	97.4	309.5	117.4	207.9	75.0	362.8	1,638.4

(a) Comprises Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting; Electricity, gas and water; Wholesale and retail trade; Finance, property and business services; Public administration and defence; Community services; Recreation, personal and other services.

TABLE 3. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : STATES AND AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST ('000)

Period	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
1987									
October	61.2	37.9	3.4	4.1	6.8	1.3	0.4	2.6	117.6
November	88.6	9.7	16.2	2.5	7.3	1.3	0.2	0.8	126.7
December	47.6	26.3	2.8	2.5	1.1	5.4	0.2	0.7	86.5
1988									
January	9.6	1.6	13.2	0.6	3.4	0.3	0.4	—	29.2
February	62.7	9.5	7.8	5.3	12.4	0.9	1.2	0.6	100.5
March	26.5	13.2	21.4	0.7	17.2	3.4	1.4	1.0	84.8
April	10.7	13.1	3.3	1.3	5.3	1.5	0.2	1.3	36.6
May	39.3	5.8	45.8	2.6	5.1	0.9	0.9	0.6	101.0
June	269.0	64.7	94.2	23.4	24.8	3.5	1.3	7.4	488.3
July	48.6	181.8	49.8	4.7	9.7	2.9	—	0.2	297.8
August	120.5	21.2	6.8	4.1	7.3	3.5	1.7	1.2	166.2
September	30.2	22.7	12.8	0.6	9.1	0.1	—	0.8	76.3
October	r31.7	7.4	11.3	1.1	r30.2	0.8	0.5	0.3	r83.3
November	r58.3	10.1	r30.3	1.0	33.1	0.7	0.2	0.8	r134.5
December	20.0	11.6	2.8	1.6	2.9	—	1.1	—	40.0
Twelve months ended—									
December 1986	598.8	381.8	173.3	46.3	143.1	29.2	11.8	6.5	1,390.7
1987	744.8	281.4	73.7	44.6	115.3	28.0	6.5	17.5	1,311.9
1988	727.1	362.6	299.5	47.0	160.6	18.6	8.9	14.1	1,638.4



**Australian
Bureau of
Statistics**

4 MAY 1989

CORRIGENDUM

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES, AUSTRALIA DECEMBER 1988 CATALOGUE NO. 6321.0 (Issued on 3 May 1989)

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The first feature on page one — under the heading 'In the 12 months ended December 1988' — should read 'the number of disputes in progress (1,504) was the lowest since 1967 (1,340), but involved the largest number of working days lost (1,638,400) since 1983 (1,641,400).'

IAN CASTLES
Australian Statistician

TABLE 4. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : BY INDUSTRY, AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES(a)

Period	Manufacturing							
	Mining		Metal products, machinery and equipment	Other	Construction	Transport and storage; Communication	Other industries (b)	All industries
	Coal	Other						
1984	3,913	3,745	343	416	503	372	91	248
1985	6,892	1,928	256	312	666	430	71	228
1986	10,741	3,328	445	328	458	135	72	242
Twelve months ended—								
1987—								
November	8,886	1,286	474	287	778	157	85	231
December	8,920	1,072	479	305	743	217	70	223
1988—								
January	9,258	820	474	302	741	213	70	221
February	9,845	984	481	286	734	216	71	225
March	10,791	1,094	440	280	716	215	71	226
April	10,504	1,078	384	265	705	208	73	218
May	10,498	1,109	336	233	735	202	73	212
June	14,292	1,121	715	234	910	236	93	282
July	15,761	1,001	819	264	858	278	107	308
August	15,912	1,040	807	252	835	274	126	318
September	13,626	1,107	790	251	721	280	101	283
October	13,977	1,163	771	235	732	230	98	276
November	15,146	1,742	764	213	712	237	88	276
December	15,453	1,777	750	183	725	177	85	268

(a) See paragraph 9 of the Explanatory Notes. (b) Comprises Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting; Electricity, gas and water; Wholesale and retail trade; Finance, property and business services; Public administration and defence; Community services; Recreation, personal and other services.

CHART 1. WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES

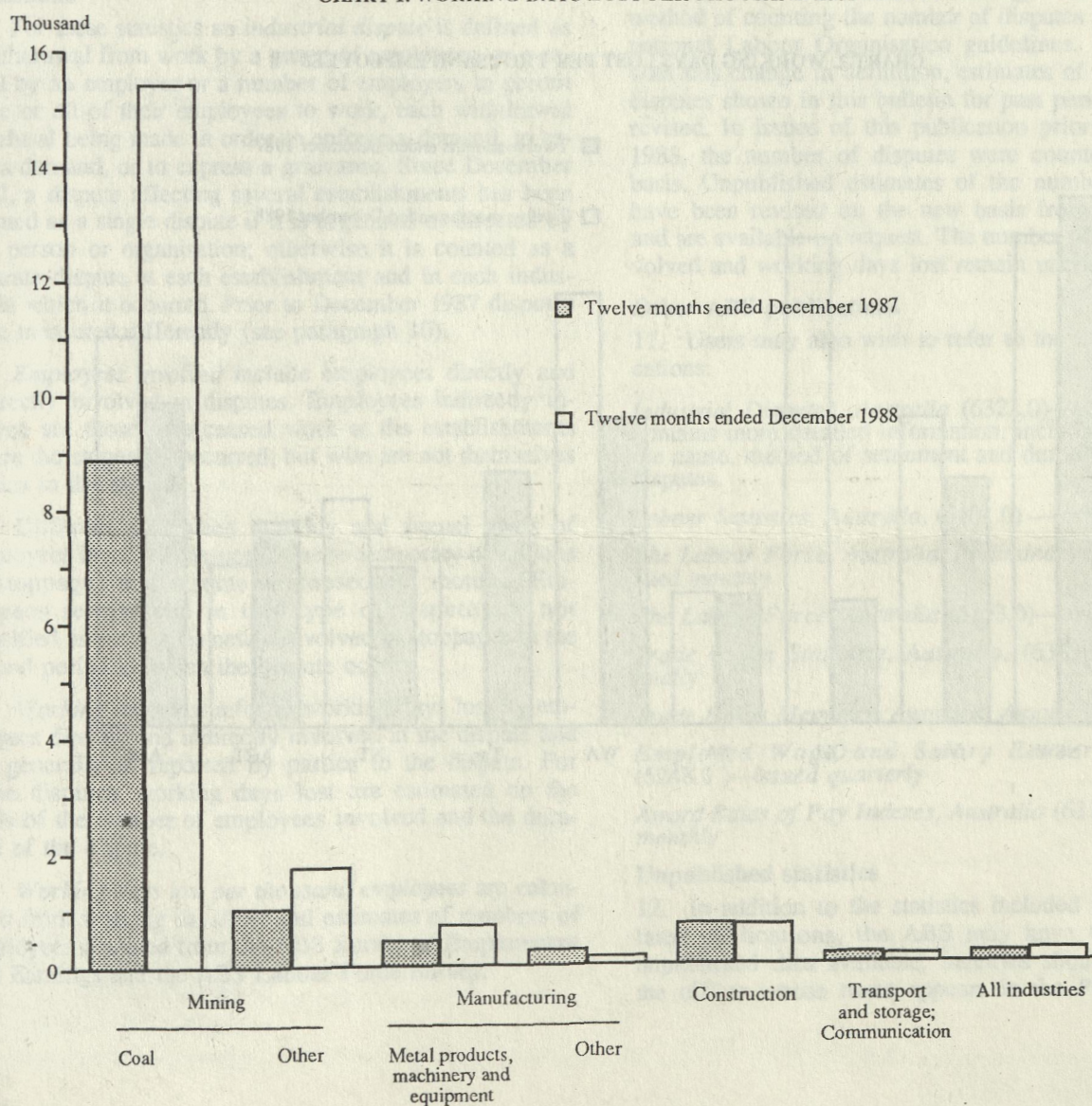
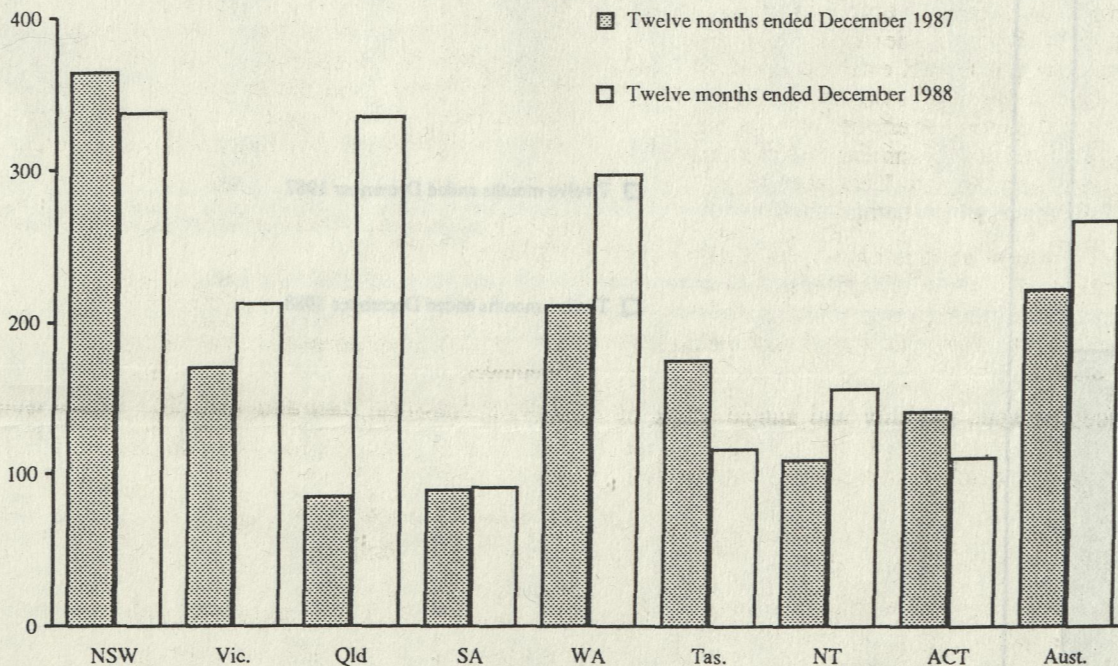


TABLE 5. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : STATES AND AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES(a)

Period	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
1984	357	132	302	56	256	350	381	88	248
1985	209	236	411	48	187	138	213	159	228
1986	304	240	r207	95	272	190	r200	55	242
<i>Twelve months ended—</i>									
1987—									
November	353	210	90	93	235	148	110	138	231
December	366	172	87	91	213	177	111	143	223
<i>1988—</i>									
January	362	170	101	90	193	177	118	134	221
February	369	164	107	100	208	180	126	108	225
March	360	163	129	97	219	194	138	104	226
April	338	164	128	96	221	190	118	100	218
May	313	151	173	90	226	180	123	103	212
June	431	179	268	126	257	194	137	145	282
July	413	272	315	116	270	163	134	132	308
August	459	254	316	114	256	173	163	139	318
September	383	243	318	105	204	160	143	137	283
October	368	224	324	98	247	156	r144	118	276
November	r353	223	r338	95	r296	152	r143	118	276
December	339	214	337	93	299	118	158	112	268

(a) See paragraph 9 of the Explanatory Notes.

CHART 2. WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES



EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

1. The statistics in this publication relate to disputes which involved stoppages of work of ten working days or more at the establishments where the stoppages occurred. Ten working days is equivalent to the amount of ordinary time worked by ten people in one day.

2. The statistics of working days lost relate to the losses due to industrial disputes only (as defined in paragraph 4). Effects on other establishments, such as stand-downs because of lack of materials, disruption of transport services, power cuts, etc. are not included. Details shown in this publication refer to disputes *in progress* during the reference period indicated.

3. The statistics of industrial disputes are compiled mainly from data obtained from employers (both private and public sector), from trade unions and from reports of government authorities. Particulars of some stoppages may have been estimated and the statistics therefore should be regarded as giving only a broad measure of the extent of industrial disputes as defined below.

Definitions

4. For these statistics an *industrial dispute* is defined as a withdrawal from work by a group of employees, or a refusal by an employer or a number of employers to permit some or all of their employees to work, each withdrawal or refusal being made in order to enforce a demand, to resist a demand, or to express a grievance. Since December 1987, a dispute affecting several establishments has been counted as a single dispute if it is organised or directed by one person or organisation; otherwise it is counted as a separate dispute at each establishment and in each industry in which it occurred. Prior to December 1987 disputes were measured differently (see paragraph 10).

5. *Employees involved* include employees directly and indirectly involved in disputes. Employees indirectly involved are those who ceased work at the establishments where the stoppages occurred, but who are not themselves parties to the dispute.

6. Differences between monthly and annual totals of employees involved can occur due to temporary cessations of stoppages that resume in subsequent months. Employees re-involved in this type of dispute are not classified as employees newly involved in stoppages in the second period in which the dispute occurs.

7. *Working days lost* refer to working days lost by employees directly and indirectly involved in the dispute and are generally as reported by parties to the dispute. For some disputes, working days lost are estimated on the basis of the number of employees involved and the duration of the dispute.

8. *Working days lost per thousand employees* are calculated from working days lost and estimates of numbers of employees obtained from the ABS Survey of Employment and Earnings and the ABS Labour Force Survey.

Change in methodology

9. The basis for the calculation of working days lost per thousand employees was changed in January 1987 to include estimates of employees from the Survey of Employment and Earnings. They are combined with estimates of the number of employees in agriculture and in private households, obtained from the Labour Force Survey. Estimates have been recalculated on this basis for each month back to June 1984 and are available on request. In issues of this publication prior to January 1987, the estimates of numbers of employees were based entirely on Labour Force Survey data. The effect of the change is minimal at the 'all industries' level but is quite significant, in some cases, for individual industry groups.

10. The basis for the calculation of the number of disputes was changed in December 1987 (see paragraph 4). Before that date, where the causes of several disputes were the same (e.g. National Wage Case disputes) the disputes were counted as one dispute, irrespective of whether they were directed or organised by one person or organisation, or whether the dispute occurred in more than one industry. The reason for the change was to align the method of counting the number of disputes with the International Labour Organisation guidelines. In accordance with this change in definition, estimates of the number of disputes shown in this bulletin for past periods have been revised. In issues of this publication prior to September 1988, the number of disputes were counted on the old basis. Unpublished estimates of the number of disputes have been revised on the new basis from January 1985 and are available on request. The number of employees involved and working days lost remain unchanged.

Other ABS publications

11. Users may also wish to refer to the following publications:

Industrial Disputes, Australia (6322.0)—issued annually, contains more detailed information, including statistics on the cause, method of settlement and duration of industrial disputes.

Labour Statistics, Australia, (6101.0)—issued annually

The Labour Force, Australia, Preliminary (6202.0)—issued monthly

The Labour Force, Australia (6203.0)—issued monthly

Trade Union Statistics, Australia, (6323.0)—issued annually

Trade Union Members, Australia, August 1986 (6325.0)

Employed Wage and Salary Earners, Australia (6248.0)—issued quarterly

Award Rates of Pay Indexes, Australia (6312.0)—issued monthly

Unpublished statistics

12. In addition to the statistics included in this and related publications, the ABS may have other relevant unpublished data available. Inquiries should be made to the officer whose name appears in the *Phone Inquiries*

section of the inquiries box at the front of this publication, or to Information Services in the nearest ABS office.

13. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications, Australia* (1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Publications Advice* (1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The Catalogue and Publications Advice are available from any ABS office.

Symbols and other usages

- r estimates revised since last issue
- nil or rounded to zero

14. Where estimates have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

Electronic services

VIATEL. Key *656# for selected current economic,

social and demographic statistics.

AUSSTATS. Thousands of up-to-date time series are available on this ABS on-line service through CSIRONET.

For further information phone the AUSSTATS Help Desk on (062) 52 6017.

TELESTATS. This service provides foreign trade statistics tailored to users' requirements.

Further information is available on (062) 52 5404.

Floppy disk service

Selected ABS statistics are available on floppy disk. Further information is available on (062) 52 6684.

